

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A slicer for slicing of foodstuffs comprising:

a rotatable disc having a radial slot therein and a knife blade projecting above a plane defined by said rotatable disc;

a chute for downwardly conveying foodstuffs to said rotatable disc, said chute being at an acute angle with respect to a direction of rotation of said rotatable disc; and  
an orifice between said chute and said rotatable disc;

said chute having a region tapering and extending forwards in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc, said orifice between said chute and said rotatable disc being at said region of said chute, said orifice having a shape that decreases in width in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

21. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said orifice is an ovate shape of decreasing width in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

22. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said chute has an elbow therein.

23. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 22, wherein said orifice is of a tear drop shape with a narrow end pointed in said direction of rotation of said rotatable disc.

24. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said radial slot has an adjustable width.

25. (Previously Presented) The slicer of claim 21, wherein said chute terminates in a housing covering and conforming to said ovate shape.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of slicing foodstuffs with a slicer comprising:

- feeding foodstuffs into a chute of said slicer;
- rotating a disc of said slicer having a radial slot therein and a knife blade projecting above said disc;
- retaining the foodstuffs in a substantially fixed position by urging said foodstuffs into a region of said chute that is tapered and extends forward in a direction of rotation of said disc; and
- slicing said foodstuffs with said knife blade so that a slice passes through said radial slot.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said slicer has an orifice disposed between said chute and said disc, and wherein said orifice has an ovate shape of decreasing width in said direction of rotation of said disc.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said chute has an elbow therein.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said slicer has an orifice disposed between said chute and said disc, and wherein said orifice has a tear drop shape with a narrow end pointed in said direction of rotation of said disc.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising adjusting a thickness of said slice by adjusting a width of said radial slot.